

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a graphical user interface for a computer, a method of displaying objects for designing a service graph using a plurality of service independent building blocks, the method comprising:
  - displaying a canvas object;
  - displaying a toolbar object; and
  - displaying a menu object; and
- 10 displaying a working folder tabs object that displays in one mode service independent building blocks that may be placed onto the canvas to design a service graph.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the canvas object is displayed in a lower right hand portion of a graphical design window, the working folder tabs object is displayed adjoining the canvas object on the left, and the toolbar object is displayed above the canvas object.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the canvas object is displayed in lower left hand portion of a graphical design window, the working folder tabs object is displayed adjacent the canvas object on the right, and the toolbar object includes a first toolbar object is displayed above the canvas object and a second toolbar object is displayed between the canvas object and the working folder tabs object.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the canvas object is displayed across a center portion of a graphical design window and wherein the working folder tabs object is floating and displayed over the canvas object and wherein a toolbar object is floating and displayed over the canvas object.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying a working folder tabs object that displays in one mode service independent building blocks that may be placed onto the canvas to design a service graph further comprises:

- displaying icons representing service graphs in a second mode;  
5 displaying icons representing service data tables in a third mode; and  
displaying icons representing message sets and messages in a fourth mode.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein each of the modes is displayed responsive to user input.

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7. The method of claim 5 wherein displaying icons representing service graphs in a second mode further comprises displaying icons representing subroutine graphs.

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8. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the toolbar object comprises displaying a plurality of buttons on the toolbar object, each button controlling objects displayed in the graphical design window.

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9. The method of claim 8 wherein displaying the toolbar object further comprises displaying text for each button along with a button icon.

10. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-readable data for performing the operations of:

displaying a canvas object;  
25 displaying a toolbar object; and  
displaying a menu object; and  
displaying a working folder tabs object that displays in one mode service independent building blocks that may be placed onto the canvas to design a service graph.

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11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the canvas object is displayed in a lower right hand portion of a graphical design window, the working folder tabs object is displayed adjoining the canvas object on the left, and the toolbar object is displayed above the canvas object.

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12. The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the canvas object is displayed in lower left hand portion of a graphical design window, the working folder tabs object is displayed adjacent the canvas object on the right, and toolbar object includes a first toolbar object displayed above the canvas object and 10 a second toolbar object displayed between the canvas object and the working folder tabs object.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the canvas object is displayed across a center portion of a graphical design window and 15 wherein the working folder tabs object is floating and displayed over the canvas object and wherein the toolbar object is floating and displayed over the canvas object.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein displaying a 20 working folder tabs object that displays in one mode service independent building blocks that may be placed onto the canvas to design a service graph further comprises:

displaying icons representing service graphs in a second mode;  
displaying icons representing service data tables in a third mode; and  
25 displaying icons representing message sets and messages in a fourth mode.

15. A computer system, comprising:  
a processor for executing a graphical interface program that operates to 30 design service graphs for telecommunications services; and  
a display coupled to the processor, the graphical interface program operable to control the display to provide a graphical user interface including a canvas

object, a toolbar object, a menu object, and a working folder tabs object that displays in one mode service independent building blocks that may be placed onto the canvas to design a service graph.

5        16. The computer system of claim 15 wherein the computer system further comprises input devices, output devices, and data storage devices coupled to the processor.

10      17. The computer system of claim 15 wherein the display provides the canvas object in a lower right hand portion of a graphical design window, the working folder tabs object adjacent the canvas object on the left, and the toolbar object above the canvas object.

15      18. The computer system of claim 15 wherein the display provides the canvas object in a lower left hand portion of a graphical design window, the working folder tabs object adjacent the canvas object on the right, and a first toolbar object above the canvas object and a second toolbar object between the canvas object and the working folder tabs object.

20      19. The computer system of claim 15 wherein the display provides the canvas object across a center portion of a graphical design window and wherein the working folder tabs object is floating and displayed over the canvas object and wherein the toolbar object is floating and displayed over the canvas object.

25      20. The computer system of claim 15 further comprising at least one user input device and wherein the program operates to control a mode of the working folder tabs object responsive to user input, wherein the mode determines what is displayed by the working folder tabs object.